

Minutes

Board of County Commissioners Hyde County

February 21, 2011

Chairman Sharon Spencer called the Regular Meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners to order at 6:30 PM on Monday, February 21, 2011 in the Hyde County Government Center, Multi-Use Room and the Ocracoke School Commons Area using electronic conferencing equipment. The following members were present on the mainland: Commissioners Anson Byrd, Sharon Spencer, Barry Swindell and Dick Tunnell; County Manager, Mazie Smith; Deputy Clerk to the Board Shelley Carawan; County Attorney Fred Holscher; and members of the public. The following members were present on Ocracoke: Commissioners Darlene Styron; Deputy Clerk, Jamie Tunnell and members of the public.

Following the opening prayer given by Commissioner Anson Byrd and the Pledge of Allegiance, the meeting was called to order.

Consideration of the Agenda:

Chairman Spencer asked for any changes to the February 21, 2011 meeting agenda as presented by the Clerk.

Commissioner Styron requested that the following items be added to the agenda, Item III A. Appointments.

Commissioner Swindell made a motion to approve the revised agenda with the following amendments: Item III A. Appointments. Mr. Tunnell seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

Nays: None

Consideration of Minutes:

Chairman Spencer asked for approval of the February 7, 2011 Regular meeting minutes.

Commissioner Styron asked for a correction on page four adding Leslie Lanier to the motion made appointing candidates to the NCDOT-Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

Commissioner Byrd moved to approve the February 7, 2011 regular minutes as presented by the Clerk with the correction to page four. Mr. Tunnell seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

Nays: None

Special Presentation:

ABC Board Report- Charlotte Smith

Financials from ABC Store operations were provided to the Board from July 2010-February 21, 2011. No representatives were present from the ABC Board.

Commissioner Tunnell made a motion to table the discussion to the next scheduled Board Meeting, with the expectation that Ms. Smith and Mr. Chilcoat would be present. Mr. Swindell seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

Nays: None

Recovery Innovations-Jim Harrison

Outreach Innovations Coordinator, Jim Harrison, presented an overview of the Recovery Innovations Program and the current progress of the classes offered. Mr. Harrison explained that the mission of Recover Innovations is to create opportunities and environments that empower people to recover, to succeed in accomplishing their goals, and to reconnect with themselves, others and meaning and purpose in life. Anyone can attend the classes offered by RI. The current class, called the Wellness Recovery Action Plan, currently has three Hyde County citizen participants.

Economic Improvement Council-Poverty Plan-Janie White/Wendy Hedgebeth

Janie White, Community Services Block Grant Director, presented the Anti-Poverty Plan Summary to the Board. Ms. White stated that the purpose and goals of the Community Services Block Grant Act are to provide assistance to state and local communities, working through local community action agencies and other neighborhood based organizations, for the reduction of poverty and the revitalization of low-income communities. The program also empowers low-income families and individuals to become fully self-sufficient.

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program is administered by the Economic Improvement Council and governed through a tripartite board as described in the Block Grant Act. The board fully participates in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the CSBG program.

The program is funded for the period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. Funding is awarded via grant application to the NC Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Economic Opportunity, Raleigh, NC. The approved planning budget for the Community Services Block Grant is \$371,909. This grant serves citizens in ten counties of the Albemarle Area and 21,783 low-income individuals.

The CSBG program will be evaluated using the Key Measures of Accomplishment system as provided and approved by the NC Office of Economic Opportunity. This system utilizes Performance, Outcome and Efficiency Measures to evaluate each program component. Included in the evaluation are factors such as families rising above poverty, cost per participant, jobs developed, wage rates and number of standard houses developed.

County Manager Smith asked Mrs. White how many people were eligible to participate in the program in Hyde County. She responded that there were 1900 and would double check that figure. After checking the figure, it was clarified that it was 795.

East Carolina Behavioral Health-Ray Wilson

Mr. Ray Wilson thanked Commissioner Byrd for representing Hyde County on the ECBH Board. Mr. Wilson commented on the previous presentation about the Recovery Innovations (RI) Program. He stated that RI was first established 10 years ago and grew from a community meeting in New Bern over a meal with the founder, Mary Copeland with approximately 300 attendees at that meeting. Since the implementation of this program, hospitalization has dropped 60%. Mr. Wilson ended by saying that Recovery Innovations is a wonderful program.

Joy Futrell, CFO, presented the quarterly fiscal monitoring report. She added that there were 23 calls made to the mobile crisis unit here in Hyde County.

NCRCAP-Kris Noble/Marshall Yandle

Mr. Marshall Yandle, Project Coordinator with the North Carolina Rural Communities Assistance Project, Inc. presented the Hyde County Sanitary Survey

Final Results to the Board. There were 73 total surveys performed with the average household size being 2.4. Out of the total surveyed, 84% were willing to hook up to sewer and 87% were willing to pay \$25-\$35 per month for the sewer. Six business surveys were performed and 100% of those businesses were willing to hook up to sewer. The report summarizes the results of the survey performed by NCRCAP in the fall of 2010 and will be a tool for Hyde County in their future community development needs. The surveys will be held for five years.

Public Comments:

Chairman Spencer called for comments from the public.

There were no public comments.

Appointments

Scenic Byway Appointee

Commissioner Styron made a motion to appoint Robin Payne to the Scenic By-Way Committee on Ocracoke. Mr. Tunnell seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

Nays: None

Other Matters

Budget Revisions

Elections---16,003.17---Money moved to fund Elections for the rest of the fiscal year. Elections Dept was cut \$14,793.19 from last fiscal year. With 2 elections in 10-11 the cut could not be endured. \$16,003.17 **does not increase the budget.**

EM---\$3,000.00---Moving money into travel for the Hurricane Conference in Atlanta. Moving money into the equipment line to finish paying out for the generator contract. \$3,000.00 **does not increase the budget.**

Maintenance---\$1,000.00---Individuals have paid to have road signs named and installed for unnamed roads in the County. Money increasing budget are fees paid for by the resident. \$1,000.00 **does increase the budget.**

Sheriff---\$966.45---K-9 broke a tooth and was taken to Raleigh Vet School for repair. With 2 dogs and cuts in budget, the money ran out. \$966.45 **does not increase the budget.**

SQ Dike---\$5,000.00---Establishing a budget for the maintenance and upkeep of the Swan Quarter Dike. \$5,000.00 **does increase the budget.**

Tax---\$1,000.00---To pay for yearly computer support. Originally budgeted for but reduced at the Midyear Budget Revision. **\$1,000.00 does not increase budget.**

Commissioner Tunnell made a motion to approve the budget revisions. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

Nays: None

Budget Calendar

Finance Officer, Jessica Gibbs and County Manager Mazie Smith developed a proposed budget calendar for the upcoming budget process. Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the budget calendar. Ms. Styron seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

Nays: None

Certification Pay-Corrinne Gibbs

Mrs. Gibbs requested the addition of several certifications to the County pay scale in order to reflect current requirements needed in the various positions, and the compensation to which employees should be entitled who obtain the certifications. Salaries of employees currently in positions impacted by the changes will be reviewed in the next fiscal year, except for the Code Enforcement Officer who has earned the credential of Flood Plains Manager on his own time and at his own expense. The County Manager explained that the County was required by FEMA to have a Certified Flood Plains Manager in order to qualify for FEMA funds should the need arise.

Commissioner Swindell made a motion to approve the 2% increase for the current code enforcement office, and to approve increases for others who earn certifications in the next fiscal year. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

Nays: None

Housing Allowance-Corrinne Gibbs

The existing policy governing the disposition of a housing allowance for employees who reside on Ocracoke Island was reviewed by Mrs. Gibbs. She explained that the \$500 monthly allowance has been provided for a number of years, but the policy did not specifically state that residence on the island must be a requirement to receive the stipend and did not include employees who accept temporary assignments.

Commissioner Styron made a motion to approve the housing allowance for Hyde County employees residing on Ocracoke as written in the Personnel Policy. Mr. Swindell seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

Nays: None

Proposed Inspection Fees

Mrs. Smith presented to the Board proposed inspection fees suggested by Code Enforcement Officer, Jerry Hardison.

Commissioner Swindell asked that he be excused from the discussion since he is in the construction business and his participation might be construed as a conflict of interest. Chairman Spencer approved his request.

Chairman Spencer made a motion to excuse Commissioner Swindell. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Tunnell

Nays: None

Commissioner Byrd suggested that the fees not exceed other counties.

Commissioner Styron questioned the pools/spas fees.

Commissioner Tunnell made a motion to approve the proposed inspections fees with the exception of changing the fee for triple wide mobile units to \$200, the fee for pools/spas fees to \$100, and striking the Ocracoke Development fees. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Tunnell

Nays: None

Harvesting of Methane Gas

Mrs. Smith presented a letter she wrote on behalf of the Board to Mr. Glen Hockney concerning his desire to apply for a grant to harvest methane gas from his property.

Commissioner Swindell made a motion to approve the letter so long as the County does not assume responsibility or liability for the project. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

Nays: None

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Styron attended the Airport Committee Meeting over in Ocracoke. She met with the Ocracoke Foundation and Robin Payne about activities on the Island and will present them to the Board at a later date.

Ms. Styron said that she enjoyed the Essentials of County Government classes she attended in Raleigh with the rest of the Board and Mrs. Smith.

She also added that the Board Meeting Agenda wasn't posted to the website resulting in little public attendance at the meeting and should be posted in a timely manner.

Commissioner Swindell said that the Essentials of County Government Classes went well.

Commissioner Byrd attended the Department of Social Services Meeting.

Mr. Byrd also added that he will be attending the East Carolina Behavioral Health meeting on the 22nd.

Commissioner Tunnell attended the Essentials of County Government Classes and said they went well. He will be attending the Albemarle Resource Conservation & Development meeting on the 22nd.

Commissioner Spencer said that she attended the RPO meeting. Chairman Spencer mentioned that previous County Manager, David Smitherman, had accepted the position of Chairman and that it was up for appointment. Thursday is the CRC Meeting in Beaufort.

Chairman Spencer asked the Board to please email the legislature regarding the proposed budget cuts.

County Manager's Report

Manager, Smith, said that she had been following up with Chastity Clark about the airport.

She attended the Essentials of County Government in Raleigh, and also attended a meeting sponsored by NCDENR regarding sea-level rise in Raleigh.

She stated she had met with Commissioner Styron and Robin Payne of the Ocracoke Foundation, and had also met with representatives of Cross Creek Nursing Home to request a donation towards purchasing a bariatric stretcher.

Mrs. Smith noted that Hyde County 911 Communications received a congratulatory letter from the Division of Services for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing for earning a 100% score on the test of its TYY System. She further shared a letter commending Justin Gibbs and Kris Noble for their assistance in providing mapping information to Mr. Richard Macrae Gordon in Australia.

Mrs. Smith also reported the County had received a donation of \$400 to be used for support of the ADAP Center from Sineath Properties, LLC from Nags Head, NC.

Emergency Services Update-Jared Holz

Mr. Holz thanked Jane Hodges, Shelley Carawan, Jessica Gibbs, Corrinne Gibbs, Andrea Gregory, Brian Carter and Jeff Hibbard for helping him and having all the answers for him during his first month of employment.

He announced that the Code Enforcement and Emergency Services Offices have been moved to the Public Safety Building.

Mr. Holz said that EMS has been doing well and have responded to 30 calls, 19 of which were transports. He thanked the Board for approving re-establishing the On-Call Policy because he was no longer getting 2 AM phone calls. He reported EMS responded to a search and rescue on Saturday and that there had been nine fire calls in the past few weeks.

He said that the Ferry Exercise will be held March 25th-26th and that the Board has been screened and approved to partake in the helicopter flyover to be held April 6th.

Closed Session

Commissioner Swindell made a motion to enter into Closed Session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4). Mr. Tunnell seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

Nays: None

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to come out of closed session. Mr. Swindell seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

Nays: None

Commissioner Swindell made a motion to terminate the contract between David Smitherman and the County effective March 15, 2011. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

Nays: None

Commissioner Swindell made a motion to adjourn the February 21, 2011, Regular Meeting of the Hyde County Commissioners. Commissioner Byrd seconded the motion.

The February 21, 2011 Regular Meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Minutes approved on the _____ day of _____, 2011

Mazie Smith, Clerk - Hyde County Board of Commissioners

Sharon Spencer, Chairman – Hyde County Board of Commissioners